Fees for dining, housing and parking at USF St. Petersburg are expected to increase in the 2013-2014 school year to fund on-campus renovations and account for rising living costs.

A student living in Residence Hall One or the University Student Center with a gold meal plan and a resident parking permit can expect to dish out nearly $300 next year.

Housing fees for RHO and the USC will increase by 2 percent; however, fees for Hilton residents will decrease by 17 percent.

For fall 2012 and spring 2013 semesters, RHO residents paid $3,845 and USC residents paid $3,710. The 2 percent increase will tack on about $75 to next year’s rates.

Kay-lynne Taylor, director of Student Affairs, explained that housing fees usually increase slightly each year to keep housing at a particular standard and fund general projects while accounting for rising costs of living.

Last year, housing fees went up by 1.6 percent. The money went toward renovations in RHO, including the replacement of most carpeting with tile, overall painting, landscaping, new lounge furniture and the installation of flat-screen TVs in each lounge area.

Student Affairs will use excess funds from the increase to provide RHO residents with living conditions as similar as possible to those in the USC, which is a newer, more modern building, Taylor said.

Parking fees for 2013-2014 will go up by about 5 percent, adding $4 a semester to commuter permits and $6 a semester to resident permits.

Katie St. John, director of Parking Services, said the increase will cover the additional costs of expanding the parking garage and maintaining the current one.

Parking fees for 2012-2013 were $95 for a semester.

The 3.3 percent increase in meal plans costs for fall 2012 and spring 2013 semesters was $1,705.00 and $1,066.50 for the gold and green plans, respectively. The 3.3 percent increase is due to a contract between Sodexo and the university.

Josef Rill, assistant director of USFSP Auxiliary Services, said the increase is due to rising costs of goods and services.

Dining Services plans to increase the price of the gold and green meal plans by $60 and $35, respectively, for a total of $1,066.50 and $1,705.00.

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The increase will help fund the replacement of most carpeting with tile, overall painting, landscaping, new lounge furniture and the installation of flat-screen TVs in each lounge area.

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Part of this price adjustment is written into Sodexo’s 5-year contract, which mandates a 1 percent increase after the first year.

The remaining 2.3 percent of the increase comes from the U.S. Consumer Price Index, which measures changes in retail prices of goods and services. Meal plan prices fluctuate upon CPI as it increases or decreases each year, explained Josef Rill, assistant director of USFSP Auxiliary Services.

To justify meal plan increases, Rill presented a comparison of USFSP’s dining fees with schools in other states at the Jan. 30 SG general assembly.

The Reef’s gold plan was ranked 10th cheapest out of 14 schools sampled while the green plan was ranked seventh cheapest out of 10 schools sampled, he said, adding that both plans are cheaper than any at USF Tampa.

SG senators at the assembly were mostly accepting of the price adjustments, seeing it as a means for dining service improvement.

SG Sen. Franklin Alves has worked at the Reef and claimed to have seen serving stations cleaned with chemicals while food was still out, and expressed concerns about meat used in the meat grinder. He believes the price increase could help improve the quality of work performed at the Reef.

Rill said that although regular health inspections have found minor issues, the Reef passes all regulations regarding food quality.

Rill and representatives from Sodexo invite students to attend Dining Advisory Council meetings to voice their opinions about dining services and make suggestions for improvement. Meetings are held every other Thursday at 5 p.m. in the USC Coral Room.
news

WUSF eyes campus for space

By Jane McInnis
Crow's Nest Correspondent

The USF St. Petersburg Sustainability Initiative launched a recycling campaign calling for 20 new recycling stations on campus.

Sophia Constantine, a deputy of Student Government’s Sustainability Initiative, and Sarah Smith, a SG senator, will propose the bill on Feb. 8, asking for about $10,000 to fund the project.

The new recycling stations would replace the receptacles already on campus, which, while only 3 years old, have acquired rust damage from rain, causing some of them to wobble.

Each station will contain both a trash can and a recycling bin, adding convenience to the disposal process. Constantine said. She feels this will be more efficient than the current set up, which has trash cans and recycling bins placed sporadically throughout campus.

The bill asks for money from SG’s capital account, made up of activity and service fees that cost students $25.05 per credit hour.

Sophia Constantine is one of two Student Government members asking students to sign petitions for new recycling stations on campus. They would replace the current garbage cans, which have weathered poorly since they were installed three years ago.

By Tyler Killette
Staff Reporter

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Students plan recycling cans

A campaign to encourage students to drink more water by USF Wellness posted signs with the word “swallow” in bold, pink print throughout the Tampa campus.

The campaign, which intended to catch students’ attention, was not well received by everyone. Some students were offed by the term’s underlying meaning, finding it derogatory and offensive. Despite complaints, USF Wellness did not remove the posters and plans to keep them up until the campaign ends on Feb. 8.

Application packets for Student Government positions are now available.

They can be found at the University Student Center, the library, in Davis lounge, Bayboro Hall or in Academic Advising, SLC 1500. Elections will take place March 4 through 7.

The USFSP Graphic Design Program is presenting its “Big Kids” art show Saturday, Feb. 9 at Studio@620.

The exhibition features a collaboration of work from graphic design students and students from Symmes Elementary School in Riverview.

The elementary school students began by drawing their favorite cartoon characters, which graphic design students used as basis for their own creations.

Donations and proceeds will benefit the family of Esteban Perez-Palmer, a former graphic design student whose newborn son was born with a heart defect.

The show is free and begins at 6 p.m.
Search narrowed to three

By Tyler Killette
Staff Reporter

Interim Regional Chancellor Bill Hogarth is not among the top candidates up for the permanent chancellor position.

On Jan. 29, the 18-member Regional Chancellor Search Advisory Committee, headed by Frank Biafore, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, narrowed down the pool of candidates from six to three after two days of interviews.

The committee recommended Ron Brown, senior vice president of Academic Affairs and provost at Wayne State University, Ralph Rogers, vice chancellor for Academic Affairs at Purdue University Calumet, and Sophia Wisniewska, chancellor at Penn State Brandywine.

A private firm will run extensive background checks on the three finalists, who will then face a series of interviews and public presentations at USF St. Petersburg the weeks of Feb. 11 and Feb. 18. USF President Judy Genshaft will ultimately choose the candidate she sees best fit for the position. There is no set deadline for her decision at this time.

The Tampa Bay Times reports that the three finalists are technically recommendations and Genshaft still has the ability to choose another candidate that may have not made the most recent cut — meaning Hogarth could still be offered the position.

The Times also reports that the chosen candidate may not accept the position, referring to Brown, who is up for another job.

Hogarth has not released a statement on the matter at the time of reporting and could not be reached for comment.

news@crowsneststpete.com
G. Love chills downtown

G. Love, better known as G. Love (the G stands for “Garrett”), plays a chilled-out brand of pop that has been a staple of the music scene for over 20 years. He regularly reminisces over his early days of playing, how he brought a sense of intensity and charm to his music, and the way that left hips swayed. He closed the show with “Booty Call”, perhaps his most well-known song, which he closed the show with “Booty Call”, perhaps his most well-known song, which left hips swaying. He closed the show with “Booty Call”, perhaps his most well-known song, which left hips swaying.

Wayward paths toward MDs

By Ryan Ballogg

Students who understand the personal side of the practice as well as the technical, Katie said. “More studies make you more passionate,” Israel said. During the first two years of the program, students are graded on a pass-fail basis with hopes of eliminating some of the competitiveness and contention that gets in the way of learning. According to Israel, it allows students to decide whether they really want to pursue medicine or not. Katie felt that the techniques suited her perfectly. “I don’t know if one way is better than another. People just learn differently,” she said.

During the last two years, the classes are more hands-on and students participate in clinical rounds. After graduating, doctors have to go through at least a year of training to get their license. “After you’re done with medical school you realize the practical side of medicine,” Israel said. Katie said that the program opened up a lot of residency options for her. “Sometimes people aren’t sure what they want. Residency programs let them figure out the right fit,” she said.

According to Israel, there are plenty of opportunities for employment in the field. Many new doctors gravitate towards higher paying, specialized practices to pay off their medical school bills — leaving a great need for general practice doctors.

The couple debunked some common myths as well. “Shifts can be long, but not as long as they are sometimes made out to be on television. Sixteen hours is the federally mandated limit on the time that a first-year resident can be on the floor at the hospital.”

They’re figured out that you start losing efficiency after about 12 hours,” Israel said. Another thing that new doctors aren’t always expecting is the endless amount of paperwork. Overall, they are both happy that they chose medicine as a career path. They still pursue their other interests on the side — when they have time.

“I love talking to people, and teaching people,” Katie said, who spoke to a group of Honors College students with her husband on Jan. 28. “Whether it’s a language or a disease state, in many ways it’s the same.”

More information on the medical program at Mount Sinai can be found at mssm.edu.
Monday- Feb 11th
WRECK IT RALPH - 8PM TO 10PM  Lawn

Tuesday- Feb 12th
MAKE YOUR OWN VALENTINE - 12PM TO 4PM  Harbor Walk

Wednesday- Feb 13th
DUELING PIANOS - 8PM TO 10PM  USC Ballroom

Thursday- Feb 14th
CONDOM CASINO - 7PM TO 10PM  USC Ballroom

Week Of Love

POWERED BY
H.A.B
Dear Ronald Brown, Ralph Rogers and Sophia Winiweska,

Congratulations on your advancement to the final round of the hiring process. In coming weeks, one of you will be selected to lead USF St. Petersburg through an era of great national and local turbulence. While the United States struggles to emerge from a recession in a post-manufacturing age, USFSP is caught between identities.

Are we a commuter campus or a residential one? Do we want to be a big school — like the one in Tampa with which we share a name — or should we limit our size? Are we Bulls or are we something else?

There are many things you’ll need to address as regional chancellor. Few students agree on any of them, even fewer administrators do, and some will bring you open disdain from your supervisors in Tampa. They include:

- Independence is a ponderous issue at USFSP. The men and women who lobbied for a university in St. Petersburg in the 1950s and 1960s envisioned an independent campus. They settled for a branch of USF, but the dream never died. USFSP became a separately accredited entity in 2006, and administrators will tell you it is “fiscally autonomous.” The truth is that the two schools are tied together in ways not everyone understands. Students pay athletic fees and technology fees that are routed to Tampa, and professors who earn grants lose a significant chunk to the coffe s of Fowler Avenue. If you have a free weekend, try to figure out how the school accounted for student fees and building bonds when they built the University Student Center.

- Most students will tell you they love being a Bull, but there are plenty of faculty who do not. A bipolarity of bull and marine-themed metaphors exist on campus. You will soon learn the term “Bullsharks” is thrown around in some circles.

- The cost to attend the school is important to keep in mind. You all come from public institutions, but Florida’s are among the most affordable in the country — and USFSP’s costs of attendance is below the Florida average. However, our activities and service fees are much higher than other Florida public universities. Much of that was levied to pay for our “student union,” the USC, which doesn’t provide much for students besides poorly received food. The rest is used bring bronze bulls and aquariums to campus, while the health center operates with half the funding it needs.

- New ideas for education are spreading in St. Petersburg. The entrepreneurship program is turning out dozens of young men and women who have plans to create. Some of them have already become minor celebrities in the Tampa Bay area business community, even though the program is only a few years old. The Digital Journalism and Design program is the school’s first online-only master’s program. In an age where journalists are struggling to keep up with the pace of the Internet, this program looks forward to learn how we can do things better.

- Job satisfaction varies wildly on campus. A shocking large group of popular professors were passed a pink slip this semester, and many others drive to work every day afraid for their jobs. With declining revenues from Tallahassee belt-tightening, we understand that some cuts are necessary, but there are adjunts at USFSP who teach more classes than hands have fingers.

This campus needs some healing, and you’re going to have to be the person to do it.

Of course, there are many things to love about “the jewel by the bay.” Nestled in the downtown area, on a waterfront and close to I-175, the location is unrivaled in Tampa Bay. Class sizes remain small, and many students take advantage of it — it’s not uncommon to see them spending time with teachers outside of class. Hundreds of students are passionate about the environment, about entrepreneurship, about government. They pursue their interests and bring recognition back to this little school in St. Petersburg.

And we need you to do the same. We wish the three of you luck in coming weeks, and we look forward to seeing what you can accomplish.
By Lazar Anderson

Guest Columnist

There’s a bill in the senate asking members of Student Government to pledge their support for Greek life. It’s an unusual concept, as most senators have never experienced it. If there’s one argument I’m tired of hearing, it’s that “If you don’t like Greek life, you can just choose not to go Greek.”

It doesn’t work that way. A heavy presence of Greek life on campus changes the dynamic for everyone, and it’s undoubtedly for the worse for the majority of students that aren’t Greek. Before I tell you why, let’s get one thing straight.

We’ll start by removing the unfair stereotypes that often come up. No, Greek life does not mean a legion of backwards-hat-wear- ing bros from the Delta Beta Alpha Gamma frat are going to descend upon our campus, sandal-slapping everyone over with spit Natty Light. No, a bunch of rich Delta Umbra Mu girls will not be throwing an all pink Chihuahua fashion show, proceeds going to feel Susan G. Komen’s unquenchable thirst for administrative fees. To some extent, members of fraternal organizations will not follow these typescapes.

Let’s also get rid of an unreal, supposed upside. There will not be on campus fraternity and sorority houses that host parties anytime in the near future. We don’t yet have a College of Business building, and student will be paying a modest fortune for the University Student Center for years. Rivaling party houses in walking distance to your classroom? Not happening.

Though the reason Greek life doesn’t belong at USFSP is actually far worse than stereotypes arising. Whether or not you realize it, there’s a special culture at USFSP. It’s like nothing I’ve seen elsewhere. It has to be cherished, respected and preserved.

And Greek life would kill it. I was a ghost before I transferred here from the University of North Florida — a college with many fraternities and sororities. Coming to class late, leaving early or not showing up at all. I had thought of campus involvement as lame; what students who weren’t old enough to enter a bar did.

Flash forward two years after transferring, and I’m organizing for SG, the entrepreneurship club, and writing for this paper (and more than old enough to drink). This place has turned me, of all people, into someone who’s more involved in the extracurricular than most any other student. How? Our culture of inclusion. Those who have never experienced this little universe. Our clubs and organizations are full of friendly faces that are here to help. They’ll take anyone, and pay for them to attend events. It’s really kind of beautiful how it works.

Add Greek life and you subtract from that culture. Tomorrow’s friendly faces are instead pitched to vertical excluse. Those connected, friends and opportunities that are currently available all over campus are no longer for your enjoyment — they’re for your purchase. Greek life means paying for your connections, paying for your experiences and to some extent paying for your friends. You must pay sacrificing your pride (humiliating yourself by pledging) and money (dues), part of which is kickback to some far away national chapter.

And Greek life, and the rest of our college experiences are cheapened for the supposed benefit of a few cliques.

It should be noted that our current on campus fraternity, Delta Sigma Pi, doesn’t put their pledges through humiliating initiations. DSP is the business frat, and a professional fraternity is something very different from a social one. I actually like their presence on campus, and feel it has the potential to add to our college experience.

Sorority-in-making Delta Zeta is also free of charge and pledge rituals — I’m now, President Amanda DiCicco has been diligently working since founding the organization in August 2012, and wants to see it become part of one of the 26 national sororities. Unfortunately, that’s where the inclusiveness ends. Once going national, the sorority will have to charge fees dictated by their H.Q. (emphasis that is). And the initiation? According to DiCicco, “Sisters can’t talk to other sisters about the initiation process. They would send people from other local chapters or to teach us and to make sure we can pass on the tradition correctly.”

I am by no means saying DiCicco’s sorority will be one that conducts hazing. I am saying, however, that with enough Greek organization on campus, it will happen.

Take the frats at our Tampa campus, like Omega Psi Phi. Back in 2010 they beat their pledges with 2-by-4s, told them to bounce their bruised bottoms on railroad tracks and then required them to go out and buy chicken and beer. When their offe ing were deemed unsatisfactory, they were beaten again. This was only a few years after Lambda Chi Alpha shut down its USF chapter, in part due to hazing.

Of course, every Greek organization will tell you they don’t haze; that it’s against the law. Yet it still happens. It’s inevitable that if we move toward Greek life at USFSP hazing will rear its ugly head.

And that says nothing about the loss of integrity the surviving student organizations would have. When I was hired to be part of SG’s executive board, I knew the only new president. The rest are an ideal mix of diverse candidates best suited for their individual positions. All student governments are run by exclusive, Greek organizations. Imagine a student body president that was also part of a fraternity. It would be a board full of frat brothers, with one or two token diversity hires.

This campus is a place where students learn, make friends, connections, and memories (the supposed benefits of Greek life) for free already, without all the baggage Greek life brings.

Maybe in 10 or 20 years (though I’d hope never) it could work. If we were a bigger school, we could support Greek life and still have enough students to support a culture of inclusion, with a healthy amount of student clubs and organizations. Maybe if we doubled our students, we could do both. Right now, it’s not an option.

Either we have our awesome, inclusive and engaging culture, or we give it up for a poor mimicry of the Greek life in other schools. This place is too small for both.

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My big fat Greek problem

By Frank Kurtz

Staff Columnist

The Tavern at Bayboro carried all four categories they were an option for during the 2013 Student Choice Awards, conducted by The Crow’s Nest. The Tavern won “Best Sandwich Shop,” “Best Cuban Sandwich,” “Best Lunch Alternative” and the coveted “Best Hangout” awards.

There are too many sandwiches to count on the menu, and if for some reason they don’t have what you desire, the friendly staff behind the bar can probably make what your taste buds desire. While on the topic of sandwiches, the Cuban sandwich may be the best seller — I watch countless of these fine sandwiches made, ordered, and eaten daily.

Let me be honest. Going hungry is a b a t e r on e n t r y than eating at the dining hall in the University Revenue Building. However, since we all have to eat in order to survive, The Tav is a perfect spot to eat lunch.

Not only do they have the infin- ite sandwich possibilities as mentioned above, but they also have a grill that produces excellent burgers (I’d suggest the burger and bacon fixed with toasted rye bread, no butter, or as Tom refers to it: the patty melt) and a fryer that churns out excellent fried food (my girl friend and I are major proponents of the chicken tender basket.)

Tavern fries are better than dining hall fries.

Cheap beer (where else in St. Petersburg can you get the hang-over-proof champagne of: Genesee Cream Ale), great atmosphere and clientele, and excellent food are just some of the rea- sons why I love the Tavern won “Best Hangout.”

Located a two-minute brisk walk from Davis Hall, you can grab an ice cold brew and check the score of the game while on break during in those 6 to 9 p.m. or 6 to 10 p.m. classes. It’s also a great place to relax for a few minutes between classes during the day; those ice filled Styrofoam cups are a tell-tale sign that somebody was Tavern-ing it up.

I have made a number of friends during my two years at USFSP, most of which I’ll see at some point during the week at The Tavern. One can almost tell what day of the week it is by who is sitting at the picnic tables. I met my girlfriend while sitting at those tables. We even spent an entire evening there talk- ing until we saw the ‘t’ delivery person and heard the birds singing their morning songs.

I have a good friend that will send you a “quick to the Tavern” text message if he hasn’t seen you lately or he just would like some company while drinking his Miller Lite.

There are decks of cards if that is your fancy, as well as numer- ous board games, dominos, and the legendary “life sized Jenga” that always will draw the attention of those sitting outside. Frequently towards the end of the semester it is common to see classes convened at The Tavern discussing the school year and saying their goodbyes.

Since The Tavern is technically not on campus, smokers are free to smoke their cancer sticks with- out fear of violating the on campus smoking ban (that really ain’t enforced anyway). There is open mic night on Wednesdays, and if you stick around long enough, you can watch me on stage signing some Bob Seger, Harry Chapin, or a now the fan favorite “spoken word Hotel California.”

All of these selections generate countless laughs.

I would be remiss if I failed to mention the staff at The Tavern at Bayboro. I have been to most all the bars in downtown St. Petersburg at one time or another during my tenure at USFSP, but the folks at The Tave are by far the best. They know who I am and I know who they are. I can walk in at any time, order one, any number of sports with most, the latest Ke$ha song with others, or what new article of cloth- ing one got from a thrift shop. They

USFSP’s Tavern is a treasure

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op-ed

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Thank you.

The Tavern at Bayboro is a fan- tastic place. There are mentions about it in previous Crow’s Nest from years ago—just look at the PFDs on the USFSP library web- site. It makes me happy knowing that we are carrying on a Nest tra- dition (some of us on the staff can recall the seven pitchers of cream ale night last year).

So if you have been living under a rock while at USFSP, go ahead and venture over to The Tav for a beer and sandwich. It’ll be worth your while and dime.
Anywhere but here

By Samantha Ouimette
Staff Reporter

Tropicana Field opened in 1990 in hopes of attracting a Major League team.

Here we go again.

On Tuesday, Stuart Sternberg, the principal shareholder of the Tampa Bay Rays’ ownership group, revamped his eff rt to get the Rays out of Tropicana Field and into a new stadium.

Speaking in front of the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners, Sternberg and a group of Rays’ executives presented their case for needing options to relocate to a new stadium.

The group claims that the organization, which was last in Major League Baseball in attendance during the 2012 season with an average of 19,255 fans per game, is struggling because it is “handcuffed to a facility that was built in 1990.”

If they were located in a better location, “I would definitely go to more games,” said John Bos, a Tampa resident. “But right now it is almost an hour drive and an hour trip back. The Rays are one of the top 10 MLB teams when it comes to television ratings. So the fan base is there.”

The stadium debate has not changed since the issue was last discussed in 2009. The Rays have a lease agreement with the city of St. Petersburg to remain at Tropicana Field through the year 2027, and the agreement prohibits them from discussing possible relocation with other cities. St. Petersburg Mayor Bill Foster uses this provision to stop any relocation talks.

“Attendance would be way better in Tampa,” said Sal Cenete, of Tampa, “Look at the Lightning. Four straight sellouts and the tickets cost double what the Rays and the Tampa Bay Rays have teamed up for the sixth year in a row to put on a special event for current students and alumni.

The USF Alumni Association has confirmed the sixth annual “USF Night at the Rays” will take place on Saturday, Aug. 3 at Tropicana Field. That night will pit the hometown Rays against the reigning World Series champions San Francisco Giants in a rare matchup, with the two teams not having played each other since 2004.

The USF community can buy discounted ticket prices, with a portion of each ticket sold going directly to the USF Alumni Association. Special guests at the game will include school mascot Rocky the Bull, former USF athletic stars and the Sun Dolls. Current and former Bulls who attend the game will also enjoy an exclusive giveaway that commemorates the continuing partnership between USF and the Rays within the Tampa Bay community.

Any other sports stories are available at crowsnesttspete.com.